

Kth Smallest Element in a Sorted Matrix [\(View\)](#)

Given an $n \times n$ matrix where each of the rows and columns is sorted in ascending order, return the k^{th} smallest element in the matrix.

Note that it is the k^{th} smallest element **in the sorted order**, not the k^{th} **distinct** element.

You must find a solution with a memory complexity better than $O(n^2)$.

Example 1:

Input: matrix = [[1,5,9],[10,11,13],[12,13,15]], k = 8

Output: 13

Explanation: The elements in the matrix are [1,5,9,10,11,12,13,13,15], and the 8th smallest number is 13

Example 2:

Input: matrix = [[-5]], k = 1

Output: -5

Constraints:

- $n == \text{matrix.length} == \text{matrix}[i].\text{length}$
- $1 \leq n \leq 300$
- $-10^9 \leq \text{matrix}[i][j] \leq 10^9$
- All the rows and columns of matrix are **guaranteed** to be sorted in **non-decreasing order**.
- $1 \leq k \leq n^2$

Follow up:

- Could you solve the problem with a constant memory (i.e., $O(1)$ memory complexity)?
- Could you solve the problem in $O(n)$ time complexity? The solution may be too advanced for an interview but you may find reading [this paper](#) fun.